The

WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers

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May 1, A Day of Fight Against Hunger, Misery, War System

Thousands of Children are Starving

Tens of thousands of children in all cities, towns and farm centers in the country go to sleep at night hungry and crying, their bodies racked by the pains of hunger. So widespread and savage have the ravages of hunger upon working class children become that the capitalist school authorities, social workers, can no longer hide it.

The tell-tale marks are on the children; undernourished, stunted bodies, pale, pallid faces, listless footsteps. In school they can not study, can not develop themselves. They are the children of the million of unemployed and partly employed workers.

At a time when the capitalist press can no longer hide the fearful suffering among working class ful suffering among working class children, Hoover proclaims May First as "Child Health Day" in monstrous mockery of the actual plight of workers' children.

The thousands of woman workers who will take the streets May First will be to demand that they and their children be given relief so they do not starve.

* * *

STARVATION IN PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Thousands of children of unemployed workers have been cut off from the miserable pittance doled out to their parents by the charity agencies, when all charity "relief" was suddenly cut off.

"We found hundreds and thousands of undernourished children, many of them going to bed at night hungry and crying," a charity official admitted. "We have all found families without a mouthful of food."

And now even the little that was doled out is no more, and the extent of hunger and child misery is increasing in this city.

* * *

School teachers and principals in many schools here have contributed money from their own salaries to provide some food for the children, in an effort to hide the extent of hunger in the public and junior high schools.

* * *

CUT WAGES OF CHILD WORKERS

DENVER, Colo. — The big beet bosses have condemned hundreds of little children — beet workers

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Oakland Jobless Women Found Living on Dumpland

Children Too Forced To Live There

(By A Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, Cal. — Working women driven out of their homes, having no employment, had to make temporary homes in the city dump at 7th and Fallon Sts. There are five women, who like the men, have constructed shelters for themselves out of the dumped crates, boards, tins, etc. Here they sleep and cook whatever they are able to pick up around dump, warehouses and market floors.

One woman has a daughter of 11 years of age with her. Child is ragged and unable to attend school. She is hoping, she can pick up some rags so she could send her to school. "She needs to learn and get something better than I have," said the mother tears streaming down down face. "I came to California from Illinois thinking it would be better here, but find myself in the dump."

Police made several raids upon this colony of about 50 men and five women residents. They burned and destroyed their shacks, telling them to move on. But as soon as they leave they are back again. The women were tipped off and were absent when they came, but at night moved back again.

"You know it would be much worse for us than men. They would say we are solicitors," said the women.

That is what the capitalist wage slave system done to the workers.

ANNE ALDEN.

Women Fighting Lynching

A monstrous frame-up, intended by the white boss class of the South to rivet tighter the chains of lynch terror, and to further divide the masses of Negro and white working masses, has been exposed in the case of nine young Negro boys, sentenced to death for an alleged attack on two white girls, notorious prostitutes, at Scottsboro, Alabama.

Tens of thousands of workers, at conferences, at mass meetings, and organization meetings, have already protested against this frame-up. Telegrams continue to flood the state capitol demanding the release of the young boys.

FACTS OF THE CASE

The facts of the case, as reported in The Daily Worker, show all the marks of a frame-up, and are as follows:

The freight train on which the fight with the white men and attack on the white girls is supposed to have taken place left Chattanooga at 10:45 a. m. on Wednesday, March 25, for Memphis. Willie Robinson, seventeen year old young worker from Atlanta, got in an empty box car by himself and was alone in that car until taken off by an armed mob at Painted Rock, Alabama. He never saw the girls, the white boys, or the other defendants.

Clarence Norris and Charles Weems, nineteen and twenty respectively, of Atlanta, got on a flat car piled with cross ties just as the freight was pulling out of Chattanooga. They were on this

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Working Women Fighting Hard Against Wage Cuts, High Costs, Other Miseries

Greensville, S. C: Women Lead Unemployed Demands on City and State

"The Bread Trust shan't keep food from our hungry children!" "We unemployed won't starve, we'll force the City Councils and State Legislatures to give unemployment insurance and immediate relief!" "Strike against wage-cuts!" These are the rallying cries of working women and housewives in various parts of the country who are joining the fight against starvation and for a better life for themselves and their families.

Enthused by the victorious outcome of recent breadstrikes in Chicago, and detroit, where the cost of bread, "The staff of life," was reduced by two, three and four cents a pound, the United Councils of Housewives of New York City are busily preparing a similar fight on the outrageous prices of milk and bread. This is the forerunner of a great wave of struggles, started by working class mothers and wives all over the country against the high costs of food and rent. It is a phase of the broader struggle of the whole working class against the employers' onslaught on labor's wages and standard of living.

While the impoverished farmer gets only the equivalent of one cent a pound loaf for his wheat, the city worker must pay 8 to 10 cents a loaf. The bulk of the difference goes in profits to Ward's, and other large baking and milling interests. The middleman's profits in other essentials, such as milk and meat, run equally high. However, when workingclass housewives and neighborhoods organize so force the price of these means of life—when they declare rent strikes, picket food shops—they soon find out what organized action can accomplish.

Unemployed women are now coming more to the forefront in the fight of the Unemployed Councils for social insurance and immediate relief. In Cleveland, a Negro woman delegate from the Council told the mayor recently, "We'll not starve peacefully." In Greenville, South Carolina, where the mill workers, always half-starved by the greedy owners, are now thrown out of the mills altogether or get only two or three days a week, there are twelve women serving on the city executive committee of the unemployed councils. They are busy organizing white and Negro unemployed to force the mayor and city council to take immediate action. Two women were chosen to present the unemployed's demands to this body, and this they did in no uncertain terms.

Today, in Collinsville, Illinois, 600 dressmakers, wives and daughters of coal miners, have gone on strike against a wage cut, and are carrying on vigorously, in spite of the attempted sell-out by local American Federation of Labor officials. In New Brunswick, N. J., in the Jerry Dress Shop strike, in New York City working women and girls are showing the same fighting spirit and solidarity as that exhibited by the women textile workers of Lawrence, the Danbury, Conn., hatters, and the New York and Philadelphia needle trades workers. That working women and housewives are waking up to their real interests was well demonstrated on International Women's Day, March 8, which was marked by wide-spread and enthusiastic demonstrations in all large industrial centers and many smaller ones as well. There was a marked increase in the number of Negro women participating, whose conditions are the very worst.

Reports reaching the **Working Woman** from various parts of the country indicate that the May First First demonstrations this year will see more women masses

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Show Need for Social Insurance for Working Women to Be Greater Than Ever Before

May Day is the real labor day of the workers on which they demonstrate in protest against the misery and hardship imposed on them in all capitalist countries, but President Hoover has just designated it as Child Health Day. Hoover as spokesman of the capitalist class is not interested in the health of children. His declaration of Child Health Day is merely a hypocritical publicity stunt similar to his periodic declarations that unemployment is decreasing and that the crisis is about to end. Each year Child Health Day has been solemnly proclaimed but no real effort has been made to "conserve the health" of mothers and children. The capitalist administrations have done nothing to protect or improve the condition of the 10 million children in the U. S. who are admittedly undernourished, the more than a million child workers from 10-15 years old and the 15,000 mothers who die each year in childbirth because they do not get proper medical care.

ADMIT MISERY

The White House Conference called last February by the government admitted only a part of the story of the wretched condition of women and children under the present system but their facts were sufficient to make working women realize how empty is the talk of these exploiters about "conserving motherhood and childhood." What did they disclose? Deaths of mothers at child birth are greater in number than in any of the 25 largest nations of the world. Three fourths of these deaths might have been prevented if the mothers had had proper medical attention denied to the vast majority of working women. 80,000 infants died in 1929 before they had reached the age of one month and 85,600 died at birth. Thousands of undernourished mothers, tired from the speed-up harassed by unemployment, facing starvation and insecurity for which these capitalists are responsible are unable to give their children adequate care. Deaths of Negro women and children are 25 to 50 times higher than that of whites for Negro workers are more bitterly exploited than white workers, get lower wages, and suffer more from unemployment and bad living conditions. Negroes are ignored in the pious utterances of capitalist "child health" conservers and no state provides to Negroes even the meager medical facilities provided for white workers. 101 Negro children die to every 50 white children.

More than a half million children from the ages of 10-14, are working in the U. S. in farm work, cotton picking, berry picking, tobacco, sugar beets, truck farming and in industry, often from sunrise to sunset, exposed to dampness and cold or extreme heat, their little bodies cramped and wasted. Many thousands of young boys and girls are crippled by machinery in industry before they are 18, because they are permitted to work in dangerous occupations and their health and lives are unprotected.

NO MATERNITY INSURANCE

Let us take a look at the record of Mr. Hoover and the capitalist class in saving the health and life of children. They have persistently refused unemployment relief in the face of the present mass starvation involving millions of working-class children. They permit us to starve or beat us up and jail us if we demand relief. No maternity insurance is given to mothers in any state to provide wages lost while absent from work in order to get the proper care and nourishment before, during and after childbirth. The few crumbs given by the federal government to states for maternity care was with-

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Nurseries For The Workers' Children Teach Patriotism

Conditions There Are Not Any Too Good For Kids

By ROSA LOPEZ

Hoover tells us, working class mothers, that May First is "Child Health Day," but we know it's on his blah-blah program to call the days of protest of the working class nice innocent names to hide from us our own starvation and misery. He only seeks to make of an International Day of struggle another Fool's Day.

We know well what the health of our children means to the boss class. They canot hide their ideas about "over-production of wage slaves" as the bread lines grow from day to day.

When we are forced to leave our homes to seek work we take our babies to Hoover's nurseries and are compelled there to sign a statement that we will not make the institution responsible for an accident or injury which migh be suffered by our children while in the care of these nurseries.

In these nurseries our two and three year old children are made to march daily with a paper hat and an American flag in their shoulder while the "Star Spangle Banner" is played. From that tender age they try to inject into the workers' children a sentiment to protect the interests of those who oppress and exploit.

What kind of a "Child Health Day" is this, that celebrates the humiliations the working class mothers receive in the welfare institutions? Day after day we hear remarks and threats from the well paid dames that scribble our names, again and again and submit us to an almost third degree investigation before they receive our children here.

Can we forget how we are red-taped and herded about when we seek free treatment in the New York hospitals? The working class mothers must refuse to celebrate "Child Health Day" with Hoover and his gang of exploiters and come out and demonstrate with the workers.

Only in the Soviet Union where the working class rules, can the proletarian mothers rejoice in the welfare of their children!

Demonstrate on May First!

(Continued from page 1)

on the streets than ever before fighting militantly for working class demands. Women, through their participation in hunger marches and strikes, through the work of their unions and unemployed councils, the struggle against high food costs have been learning in these past months many lessons in the importance of organization and working class solidarity. Above all, they are learning that only by united struggle with other members of their class will they be able to keep the wolf from their door, and improve their lot.

Working women, Down Tools! Out into the streets on May 1st! Bring other women from your shop and neighborhood with you.

Demonstrate on May 1st for immediate Unemployment relief for the Unemployed and their families: Against wage-cuts, starvation, evictions!

Down with the Lynch terror of the bosses! Demand the immediate release of the nine Negro Youths, framed at Scottsboro!

Demonstrate against the Imperialist war preparations of the U. S. government.

Defend the Soviet Union!

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WORKING WOMEN

Woman Among the Victims of Frame-Up in Paterson

Try Pin Death of Bootlegger - Boss Onto Workers

By ALLAN JOHNSON

Five Paterson silk workers, one of them a woman, have been indicted for first degree murder and are being held without bail in a seventy-five year old Paterson jail. What horrible crime did they commit that they should face the terrible penalty of death by electrocution? They committed no crime. But they are militant, and class conscious fighters, fighting against wage cuts, against speed-up, against starvation wages, and against a seventy and eighty hour week. This is their only "crime."

Three of these workers, Mrs. Helen Gershonowitz, Albert Katzebuck, and Benjamin Lieb, were picketing the shop of Max Urban in a strike which had been called by the National Textile Workers Union against a wage cut. They had been picketing quietly but effectively for weeks. All of them are well known working class leaders of Paterson.

On February 18 Urban leaped out of his automobile, and after shouting abuse at the pickets, began to strike Mrs. Gershonowitz, who is a victim of chronic heart disease, suffers from anemia, and is recovering from two recent operations. Mrs. Gershonowitz covered her head with her hands Urban's blows stopped suddenly. When Mrs. Gershonowitz looked up, she saw Urban lying on the sidewalk with blood streaming slowly from head wounds. Several roughly dressed men were running away from the scene. Katzebuck was reeling from a blow inflicted by the same men who struck Urban. Lieb was standing about 15 feet away.

ARREST WORKERS

Lieb, Katzebuck and Mrs. Gershonowitz were arrested immediately and charged with felonious assault. The next day, as an afterthought, Bart and Harris were arrested, even though they were nowhere near the picket line. Why were they arrested? For the same reason that the five of them are now held without bail, charged in first degree murder. Bart was another one of the leaders of the 1924 strike. Harris was also well known among the militant workers of Paterson.

After a few weeks Urban died of meningitis the newspapers said. The five silk workers were routed out of bed at three o'clock in the morning like so many criminals and charged with his murder.

The police have not been searching for the real criminals. Urban, an ex-bootlegger with a police record, had many underworld enemies. But the police won't look for these enecies, for they themselves are too closely connected with the underworld.

MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN FRAMED

One of these five working class heroes, Mrs. Gershonowitz, is the mother of two children. She is thin, careworn, sickly, and worries about her two children constantly during the intolerably long days and nights that she spends in the jail. But she is not complaining. She knows the class struggle. She knows that nothing is too low, too brutal, too cowardly for the bosses to utilize when they want to get rid of a militant worker.

Mrs. Gershonowitz is carrying out the tradition of those splendid women workers who have always taken a leading part in the struggle against the ruthless textile bosses. She must not be allowed to die. She, and the four silk workers who with her, are victims of this capitalist class frame-up, must not be allowed to go to the electric chair because an ex-bootlegger was attacked by his underworld enemies.

They Will Fight against Threat of Starvation

A group of miners' wives and children out on the fields waiting for their men folk to bring home the meager pay to buy food for the house. In many mining communities conditions border on famine and the women and children are especially stricken by hunger, debility, and the lowered resistance to sickness.

More mining women are turning to the National Miners Union as their organization for struggle against these conditions. As on the picket lines in all strikes the miners' wives, daughters and mothers can be counted on to stick with the men workers in a fight against the misery the coal barons are forcing on them.

"Mothers Day" a Hypocrisy In Land of Hunger, Misery

By MARGARET NEAL

This month brings us "Mothers' Day." The boss press is writing columns of sentimental slush about the "sanctity of motherhood." The florists, the telegraph companies and the greeting card manufacturers will reap a harvest of hard, unsentimental dollars.

Yet this same America that has invented Mothers' Day as a business booster, has made motherhood a bitter burden to the vast majority of its women, the women workers.

This rich country lays aside not one cent of its wealth for maternity insurance. The last session of Congress closed without passing the Jones bill, which would have revived the work for maternity and infancy discontinued by the Children's Bureau in 1929. Even this extremely inadequate provision, with all the nasty features of charity measures for what working women should have as a universal right, was turned down because it would take a few dollars from the pockets of the millionaires.

Rich America forces the working class mother to go through her child birth without offering a penny of support. The boss withdraws her meager wages at the very time she needs them most. It does not inquire, and it does not care whether she has other means of support.

Now and then the boss is a little "kinder." If a working woman can keep up with the terrific speed of the machine, she can stay at her work sometimes to the very hour of child birth. She can even take a little time off to give birth to her child in the factory wash room.

20,000 Mothers Die Yearly

Almost twenty thousand mothers die every year in the United States. That this loss is for the most part in the working class sections goes without saying. The rate of infant deaths is about 5 times as high for the working class babies as for the children of the rich. The babies of Negro women are condemned to die eight to ten times as fast as the white babies.

The boss class of America wants plenty of cheap labor for its factories and plenty of cannon fodder for its wars. So it forbids the working women to receive information on how to limit her family. Not all women — for the rich women can get this information easily from the "high class" doctors. This is a class law — like all capitalist laws.

Bosses! America does not care whether, after giving birth to her children, the working woman can support them or not. This very Mothers' Day, millions of working class parents, out of a job are watching their children grow thin and weak from lack of food. Desperate, at the end of thier resources, they take their children from school to work long hours in factories and mills.

But America has taken pity. Last winter it started the children's bread lines, where starving children can get a bowl of slop. Hoover called a conference to consider the ten million undernourished children. The conference "considered" — and disbanded.

"A worker has got no right to have kids these days," say workers on breadlines and job lines on Mothers' Day, 1931.

* * *

Soviet Russia has no use for hypocritical sentiment, and has no need for boosting business, so it has no "Mothers' Day." But Workers' Russia has made the welfare of mother and child one of its first concerns.

A working woman in Soviet Russia who becomes pregnant reports to her factory committee, and is assigned to a mother and child clinic for free pre-natal care. Two months before the birth of her child she quits the factory, not to return for four months. During these months she continues to receive her pay in full. The hospital in which she gives birth to her child gives her its services free. When she returns to work, her child is cared for in a sunny creche at the expense of the factory. Summer rest homes have nurseries so that the mother need not miss her annual two weeks' vacation. For all these services the worker pays nothing out of her wages; these services are at the expense of the state and the factory. The maternity services, like all other social services in Workers' Russia, are received not as degrading, humiliating charity, but as a working class right.

With the extension of state and collective farming, these benefits are brought also to the millions of Russian peasant women.

A Russian woman receives information freely about her health and family limitation. Yet the net increase of population in Russia is three and one-half millions annually, greater than in any Western capitalist country. For Russian women know that neither they nor their children will ever stand in bread lines or job lines.

Workers' Russia has no crocodile tears to shed over the "sanctity of motherhood." But with the power in their hands, the Russian workers have built a country where working and peasant women are glad and proud to bear and rear their children.

Organize Grievance Committees in your shop. The Working Woman will help you. Write to us of your problems.

Pass this paper to your shop mate after you finish reading it. Get new subscribers.

Seattle Jobless Girls Forced to Seek Shelter, Food in City Prisons

Many Girls Forced Into Prostitution and Then Into Jail

Seattle, Wash.

Working Woman:

In Seattle, working women and girls are so "prosperous" that they go to jail to get aid! I was one of the three women who were arrested during the demonstration on February 25, which the police broke up, when 18 men were also arrested. In the cell in which I was put was a young girl who had come there of her own accord because she was sick and broke and out of work and said that she felt that she at least had the right to go to jail for help. And in the jail she stayed, unable to eat the rotten food, the jailers not even putting her in the hospital which is on the floor below the jail!

The majority of the girls in jail were "ordinary prostitutes," girls who were forced on the streets by their inability to make a living also influenced by capitalist movies and press, which glorify a life of luxury, and show women as dolls as playthings. Some are young girls who if given a job and a chance to work and help, themselves would be able to escape the fate of the older ones, so hardened by the life they have been forced into, so corrupted by disease, that there is little hope for them. But instead of help and repairing if possible some of the damages that the capitalist system of breaking up families, poverty, and unemployment has done, they are constantly being hounded by the police who try to get graft from them.

Every day, and they said usually about three times on Sunday, the girls have to listen to various religious fakers—Salvation Army, Unity, all varieties come there to tell the girls that Jesus is with them even behind the bars—but not a word about where to get a job to support themselves. This is what the capitalist "respect and care for women" means—first, the fake charity organizations, then jails for the militant ones or for the hungry and sick ones—and always plenty of religious dope to keep them thinking as long sa possible that they will be served at the big pie counter in heaven but don't expect decent conditions on earth.

A Seattle Woman Worker

Paper Box Girls Get Low Wages; Work Is Hard

NEW YORK. —The paper box factory in which I am employed was at one time affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, but later on the majority of the workers broke away from this fake union and signed up with the Trade Union Unity League. The numerous betrayals and the sell outs of the American Federation of Labor were sufficient enough to clarify the workers on why they should leave the A. F. of L. The conditions in this factory, though not maintaining exact union demands, are certainly good, especially compared to the condifions of the workers employed in other factories and in this period of depression.

In this factory the girls when they first come in receive the wages of fifteen dollars, but in five months start getting the sum of twenty dollars. Naturally the work is hard, but we are not as speeded up as other girls in paper bag factories where they are not organized.

Then men start with twenty-five dollars and then are raised. The sentiment of the workers as far as the union is concerned is good. That is, they participate in all union activities.

We are making every attempt to get the few workers still in the American Federation of Labor into the Trade Union Unity League, which is the only revolutionary fighting union

Woman Domestic Worker Given Garbage to Eat; Got Only $20 a Month

Work Hard All Around—Clean, Scrub and Wash for Family of Eight

(By A Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, CAL.—Widowed, with a child to support, twice evicted, finally got a job as a domestic servant in one of Oakland's rich households.

I was offered $40 per month working there by days. But when the boss found out I had to support a child, she asked me whether I wouldn't rather get $20 per month and meals for myself and child. Naturally I readily agreed, knowing I could not buy food for two for $20 per month, especially the kind of food I expected to get there.

The work was very hard. House had 18 rooms. Had to clean, scrub, wash and iron for a family of 8.

Poor Wages

The cooking was done by the boss herself and her daughter. I had do wash the dishes and clear away after meals. Meal time over, I was told, that this and this and that should be put in the ice-box. Scraps of food, parts of broken cake, cut slices of bread and left over food on individual dishes, the left over bits of vegetables not worth saving, or things easily spoiled, she told me to dish out in the tins and take them home for myself and child. I was amazed, but thought she expects company and needs extra food. But each day was the same, the scraps and garbage handed out to me. I stuck out only two weeks. I knew I could not live and work so hard on scraps. Dipping in to buy food on my $20 was out of question as rent and clothes had to be considered.

What was my other amazement, when out of my two weeks pay she held out $3.50 for a pair of cast off shoes that she gave me the first week I was there. She said, as I didn't stay there, she could not afford to give them and had to charge me for them.

Need to Organize

Well, such is a life of a domestic servant in the sunny state. Unorganized we are unable to fight. I am still looking for work and starving. There is no work. The rich take the advantage of the unemployment situation and offer what they please for service formerly done by several workers. We should organize into stronger Unemployed Councils—men and women together and fight for immediate relief and for better conditions. We must organize a Domestic Workers Union, affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League.

Clarence Chang

SPEED UP WOMEN SPINACH TOILERS IN SANTA CLARA

Women Get Nervous Headaches in the Hot Sun

Santa Clara, Cal.

Working Woman:

The spinach season of three weeks is just being completed at the canneries. We workers find the bosses, or, to be specific, the owner of the Pratt Low Preserving Company, in Santa Clara, appears to be very gleeful, and gloating over the large army of unemployed. He walks up and down watching everyone and devising new ways to make more profits. He gives orders to his foreman, Mr. Herman on how to get more production. All day long it goes on like this: "Hay, you women are going haywire! Cut those stems shorter. Keep out all yellow leaves! Mary, go get your time. None of that work. These boxes are too light. All one pound under weight."

We have no scales to find out whether we are being made to fill our boxes over the required weight. Extra poor spinach is kept for the overtime, as time and a quarter is required to be paid. Women earn from $1.50 to three dollars a day, or sixteen dollars a week. We work ten and eleven hours, standing all day long.

Women workers need the nurse. They are often cut in hurrying to make a little more. The nurse says that on hot days over one hundred workers come to get aspirin tablets to quiet severe nervous headaches.

Many complain about the conditions. Others say, what's the use? Hundreds come every morning to look for work. If a working mother arrives ten minutes late she finds her place taken.

We must organize or we will be further driven down. Onward and upward in the class struggle and never say fail. Form a strong militant Agricultural Workers Union

Where the Big Cannery Bosses Reign

Scene in a Hawaiian cannery where thousands of young girls are speeded up under the most "modern" conditions. The wages of the girl workers are low and barely enough to keep body and soul together, while the hours are long.

In contrast to the lot of the girl workers is the heavy profits the pineapple canning bosses receive out of the toil and sweat of these women workers.

LOT OF WOMEN COTTON PICKERS HARD

SEVEN WEEKS OF WORK, LITTLE FOOD, AND BAD CONDITIONS

Oakland, Cal.

WORKING WOMEN!

I was "lucky" being a woman, or I would have had to walk the four hundred miles between Oakland and Buttonwood, Cal. I had to leave the city for the cotton plantation to look for work, as I had to live. Going to Bakersfield was tough enough, not knowing how to grab a freight. The first one went too fast, the second threw me clean across the track and made me dizzy for a while, but another was coming in an hour and a half and I had a chance to practice by grabbing fences. I got the third and got half way down when I got chased off. Finished the trip bumming rides on the highway.

Picking cotton close to seven weeks, I did not make enough to eat from day to day. I got diarrhea nearly every day at supper time by eating bad food and in drinking polluted water. It sure cramps a person almost to death, but going without suppers gave me a chance to save three dollars. With the three dollars I could not pay for bus or railroad back to Oakland, so had to hitch hike all the way.

The highway is full of unemployed workers begging for a ride. Some have bundles on their backs and others without, young and old. No one offers to give them a ride, making excuses that there are too many hold ups. Being a woman I picked up short rides, reaching Stockton after seven o'clock. It was dark and raining. Paid 75 cents for a cheap bed, froze all night, got up with a bad headache.

It was still raining and I had to walk a long way to the highway. Plenty of cars passed me, mostly women driving, but none offered to pick me up. I had to walk very fast to keep from being froze to death. Finally a truck driver picked me up and gave me his coat, cap and gloves. After riding three hours in the cold I could not walk and I was pretty sick, so he took me home. A worker always willing to help a worker. I was not the only woman hiking. There were many more like me. Some have children with them.

I am back on the bread lines in Oakland after seven weeks in the cotton fields. I left without a cent, starving. I came back the same way — starving. Eked out a mere existence.

The workers in the fields are ready for organization and are waiting for our union to start. Spontaneous strikes occur here often. The miserable conditions caused the strike in Imperial Valley last summer. On with the organization of the Agricultural Workers Industrial Union!

—COTTON PICKER.

Penna. Shirt Girls Get Wage Cuts and Many Are Jobless

Foreladies Are Mean To the Girls and Speed Them up

Caine, Pa.

Working Woman:

Most of the workers here are unemployed. The town has a population of about 6,500. Most of the factories are shut down.

In one shirt factory one worker said that his wife and sister are both working there on an average of nine and ten hours a day. One received for two weeks an average of nine dollars, and the other got seven dollars.

Two hundred girls and forty-five men are employed in this factory. A manufacturer, from New York moved here after a strike in New York.

The Manhattan Shirt Company in Paterson, New Jersey, employed two thousand workers not so long ago. Two-thirds of them are women. Men are employed as cutters and ironers. Now there are twelve hundred workers.

Last July they started to cut the wages. Before the wage cut the girls on the machines were making from $16 to $25 a week, examiners were getting eight dollars to ten dollars.

In February wages were cut in half without any notice. The bonus of fifty cents on every dollar was withdrawn.

The forewomen are very mean. One named Agnes looks at every stitch with a magnifying glass. Girls are fired when there is a piece of thread on a shirt.

In one section there were no shirts, so the girls were given the men's underwear to sew on and they made fifty cents for a full day's work.

The girls are all excited and are talking about doing something. We wish the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union would come here and organize us.

—Woman Slave.

SUBSCRIBE for the WORKING WOMAN

MARYA the BOLSHEVIK - -

By ALEXANDER NEVEROV

A Story of the Early Period of the Russian Revolution

WE knew many like that. She was tall, full-breasted, her eyebrows lifted like two arches—black! And her husband — as big as a thimble. Goat, we used to call him. You could hide him in a hat. And angry — good Lord preserve us! He'd start a battle with Marya, and bang on the table like a blacksmith on an anvil.

"I will kill you. I will rip your soul out!"

But Marya was a sly one. She'd begin to make much of him just for the fun of it, as if she were frightened.

"Prokofi Mitrich! Prokofi Mitrich! What is it?"

"I will cut your head off!"

"I've just cooked some porridge. You want some?"

She'd fill a plate for him to the very brim, and cover it with melted butter, and make butter stars. And she'd stand there bowing to him and feed him as if they were newlyweds.

"Eat, Prokofi Mitrich. I wronged you."

He would like it — the woman was good to him, so he'd turn up his nose, and feel important.

"I don't want it."

And Marya like a serving maid near him — now a glass of water, now a pipe of tobacco. And when he'd undress in the middle of the room — she'd put his best shoes in their place — hide his socks behind the stove. And at night she'd rest him on her arm, stroke his hair, and purr in his ear like a cat. . . . The Goat would pinch her — she'd only smile.

"Now, now, Prokofi Mitrich! It hurts. . . ."

And suppose it does hurt. . . . It won't kill you."

And he'd pinch her again — he was her husband, not a stranger to her. And as soon as he was satisfied, she'd begin with him.

"Ah, you Goat. Let me only swing twice — and that would be the end of you. . . . You think I am made of wood? You think it does not hurt to take it from a mushroom like you?"

At the beginning Marya didn't say very much, and carried her domestic troubles mostly within herself. But when the Bolsheviks came, and freedom, when they began to tell women that they were equal to the muzhiks now, Marya also opened her eyes. Just let an orator come — she'd run to the meeting. As if she had lost all shame. She came to the orator one time and started making eyes at him like a girl. "Come," she said, Comrade Orator, and drink tea in our house." The Goat was there, of course — on the spot — his face changed. His eyes grew dark, his nostrils expanded. Well, we thought that he'd start at her right at the meeting. But he bore up under it somehow. He sidled up to her and said:

"Come on home."

And she, to spite him, perhaps, got up in front of us, and began a speech:

"Comrades and peasants!"

We just rolled with laughter! And here the Goat lost his temper too.

"Comrade Orator, give her hell."

At home he threw himself at her with his fists.

"I will rip your soul out."

And Marya teased him:

"Who's making all this noise here, Prokofi Mitrich? It's a bother, but nobody is afraid."

"I will cut your skirt short if you go to the meetings."

"You couldn't do it."

The Goat got excited, started to look for something to hit her with — and Marya, threateningly!

"Just touch me.. I will break all the pots on your goat's head!"

This was the beginning. The Goat would show his power — Marya hers. The Goat would lie down on the bed, Marya — on the oven. The Goat would go to her, she — from him.

"No, darling, things aren't what they used to be. Fast awhile."

"Come to me."

"I will not."

The Goat would jump about the bed, and go to sleep under a cold blanket, and when the affair had reached that stage, people began to laugh. She stopped giving birth to children. She had borne two — and buried them. The Goat was waiting for a third, but Marya struck. "I'm sick of this business."

"What business?"

"This business. You never gave birth."

"What do you think I am, a woman?"

"Well, I'm not a cow to give you calves every year. When I get good and ready — I may!"

The Goat got up on his hind legs.

"I will tear your head off, if you dare to say such things!"

But Marya insisted on her own.

"I," she says, "have become barren."

"What's that?"

"If you try to force me — I'll leave you."

She drove the Goat to desperation. He used to joke on the street — go visiting, but now — nowhere.

He'd climb up on the cover and lie there like a widower. If he should beat her, she might go away. And that was not all. She'd drag him to court, and the Bolshevik would certainly put him in the jug. That was their style — to let the women have their way. He gave her her freedom — but he was ashamed of what people would say: that he had no character, that he was frightened. He went to a fortune teller twice — even that didn't help. Marya began to drag newspapers and books home from the Union Club. She'd spread them on the table, and sit there reading as if she were a teacher, moving her lips. She stayed home. Sometimes he'd even laugh at her.

"You're holding your book upside down. Some reader!"

Marya wouldn't pay any attention — and books and papers, as everybody knows, make a different person of him who reads them. Marya reached that point too. She would stand at the window and look out. "I'm lonely," she'd say.

"What do you want?" the Goat would ask her.

"I want something — something. . . ."

The Goat would control himself — only he couldn't control himself any longer.

"I'll lace it into you, the devil take your head. Something! What are you dreaming of?"

And it's true that she began to talk a little too much. She began to butt into the muzhik's business. We would have a meeting — she'd always be there. The muzhiks began to get angry.

"Marya, go cook the cabbage."

What cabbage? She'd only roll her eyes. And then she invented a Woman's Department. We never even heard of a word like that — it didn't sound Russian. We looked, one woman came to her, another came and — what the devil! They opened study courses in the Goat's home. They'd meet together and begin to talk, to talk. The Commissar from the Soviet also began to come to them. He was our own man from the village, we used to call him Vaska Shlyapunck, but when he joined the Bolsheviks he became Vassili Ivanich. And the Goat had to keep still. He only had to say one word, and ten voices would come in answer.

"Hey, hey, keep still."

The Commissar, of course, helped the women — that was his program. "At present," he would say, "Prokofi Mitrich, you cannot get at women — the Revolution." And the Goat would smile like a fool in answer. In his heart he was ready to tear all this Revolution in two — but he was afraid. There might be unpleasantness. And Marya was going on and on. "I," she said, "want to join the Bolshevik Party." The Goat tried to shame her out of it. "Aren't you ashamed of yourself? Where is your conscience? Remember, God will not forgive you the way you misbehave yourself."

But Marya would only giggle. "God? What God? When did you invent him?"

She became altogether crazy. She lost almost all shame before the Commissar. He would bring her Bolshevik books, mix up the thoughts in her head, and she would only blush with pleasure. Once they sat at the table — they thought that they were alone. But the Goat was under the bed. Jealousy had begun to torture him. He let the coverlet down to the floor and sat like a woodchuck in his hole. And the Commissar says:

"Your husband is so insignificant looking, Comrade Grishagina. I cannot understand how you live with him."

Marya laughed. "I haven't lived with him," she said, "the last four months." He took her hands.

"Impossible, I will never believe it." And he looked into her eyes and pressed closer to her. He embraced her waist and held her. "I," he said, "sympathize with you."

The Goat heard all this under the bed, and began to feel bad. He wanted to take an axe and finish both of them — but he was afraid. He stuck his head out from under the coverlet and looked at them, and they started to laugh at him. "We knew all the time that you were under the bed."

"Yes."

She wrote her name on the paper and then again, like an office manager:

"Are the lists ready? Finish them quickly!"

We didn't believe our eyes. This was our Marya! And she didn't even blush once. And she started to call all of us comrades. Old man Klemov came to her once, and she to him:

"What," she says, "do you wish Comrade?" And he couldn't bear the work. It would have been better to step on his corn. "Although," says he, "you are a District Member, I am no comrade of yours." But do you think it rattled her? She only laughed. After another month she began to wear a pointed hat, a muzhik's blouse, and pinned a Red Star to the hat. The Goat tormented himself, tormented himself and began to ask her for a divorce. "Free me," says he, "free me from this kind of life. I," says he, "cannot bear it any longer. I will look for another woman," says he, "one I can beat." Marya only waved her hand. "All right," says she, "I agreed long ago."

She worked five months among us — and we got tired of her — she was too much of a Bolshevik, and the other women had also started imitating her — one would balk, another would balk, two of them left their husbands altogether.

We thought we'd never get rid of her, but a little thing happened — the Cossacks came down on the village.

Marya got into a wagon with the Bolsheviks and left us. Where she went — I never found out. They say somebody saw her in another village, but maybe it wasn't so — maybe it was another one who looked like her. There are a lot of them around nowadays.

Soviet Working Women Part of State Power

The working class is the ruling class in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. And working women are part of the great state power of the proletariat and the peasantry.

The above photo is one of the scenes at a national women's conference at which the fundamental women's problems wre thoroughly discussed and decisions reached. Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, may be seen in the center surrounded by many women delegates from all parts of the Soviet Union.

The male comrade is Lunacharsky, former People's Commissar for Education.

The time came to re-elect the Soviet. The women came flying as to a fair. We were all making a racket, debating, when all of a sudden we heard:

"We want Marya, Marya Grishagina."

One of us said just for the fun of it:

"All right."

We thought it was a joke — but before we looked around it became serious. The women began to peck at their husbands like crows. Widows — soldiers' wives — a cloud of them. What's more, our people didn't like to hold office, especially at that time — so they agreed. Marya? All right, let it be Marya. Let her burn her fingers.

We began to count Marya's votes — two hundred and fifteen.

Commissar Vassili Ivanich made a speech of congratulation. "Well," says he, "Marya Grishagina, you are the first woman in the Soviet of Peasants' Deputies. I," says he, "congratulate you upon your new office in the name of the Soviet Republic, and hope that you will uphold the interests of the working proletariat."

Marya's eyes became big, the blushes covered her cheeks. But she stood there without a smile. "I," she says, "will serve you, comrades. Don't blame me if I fail — help me."

The Goat began to feel terribly bad. He didn't know whether they were laughing at him or paying him honor. He came home and he started to think: "How am I to speak to her now? She belongs to the Government." We also felt strange. Was it a play going on before our eyes? A woman — and suddenly in the District Soviet — to run our business. . . .

We began to swear amongst ourselves: "Fools that we were, what right had we to put a woman into such an office?"

Grandfather Nazarov told Marya straight to her face:

"Marya, you walked in at the wrong gates."

But she only shook her head.

"You elected me. I didn't go myself."

Later we came to the Soviet to take a look at her. We didn't recognize her. She put a table there, an ink stand, two pencils, a blue one and a red one — a secretary stood in front of her with papers. She glanced swiftly over the lines of these papers. "This," she says, "is about the food question, Comrade Yeremeyev?"

MAY DAY IS COMING!

THE HISTORY OF MAY DAY, by Alexander Trachtenberg. International Pamphlets, No. 14, 799 Broadway, New York. Ten cents.

* * *

Just forty-five years ago — on May First, 1886 — workers laid down their tools and struck for an eight hour day. This was the first May Day strike and it happened right here in the United States.

Three years later May Day was proclaimed an international day of struggle. Year by year larger numbers of workers in more parts of the world have joined in the protest, until it has become a mighty roar of denunciation of the capitalist system. May First is a mile post which marks the way to final victory of the workers.

May Day, 1931, finds ten million unemployed in the United States alone. Hunger is a grim spectre haunting every worker's doorway. Those who have jobs must work faster and faster to retain them. Jail stares in the face of every worker courageous enough to lead other workers against the cause of this mass misery — capitalism.

In his pamphlet, "The History of May Day," Comrade Trachtenberg tells the story from its beginning. He shows us the part played by the early American militants.

And on May Day, 1931, workers by thousands will be thronging the streets, demanding better conditions. They will want to know what workers in other years and in other lands have gained on May First. This ten cent pamphlet will tell them the story.

—R. S.

IT IS SPRING IN

16 to 18 Hours Work in

By EMMA BLACK

It is hot, terribly hot in Imperial Valley. In the Spring and Summer it is not unusual for the thermometer to run up to 120 degrees and more. In some spots of the Valley there are beautiful shady resorts which are supplied with long, cool drinks from across the border. Here you find the few who own the vast stretches of fertile land on which are produced huge crops of lettuce, watermelons, cantaloupes, tomatoes and some minor crops. As far as the eye can see and further, there is a broad, flat vista of productive fields traced with lines of irrigation ditches in which muddy water flows sluggishly.

And bending over, with sacks on their backs, are thousands of Mexican, Negro, Hindu, Filipino workers, men and women, working in these fields, sweating in the scorching sun for sixteen eighteen and more hours a day. They are hot and thirsty but there is no ice in their drinks—they stoop over and scoop up a handful of the dirty water from the irrigation ditch. Long after sundown, after working these long hours, some haven't the energy to go to their shacks and often fall asleep for an hour or so right in the tracks where they work.

After the crops are picked they are sent to the trimming and packing sheds where highly skilled workers trim and pack them on ice at an amazing speed. Here too, the grim story of long hours and low pay is repeated.

During January and February the lettuce crop must be picked and picked rapidly otherwise it very quickly rots in the scorching sun. It is brought from the fields to the packing sheds where girls are employed at 35c an hour to trim the heads of lettuce. This is a skilled job as well as a heavy and dirty one. The crates of lettuce are brought to the trimming table in tall stacks and the two girls working on either side of the table must lug the heavy crate down to the table, quickly pick up their sharp, curved knives and deftly cut off a certain amount of the leaves and stem of one head after the other. The knife often slips while the girls are handling the muddy, wet heads and the first aid table at the other end of the shed is kept quite busy. When this happens the girl trembles more from the scolding given her by the foreman and the fear of losing her job, than from the actual pain of the cut which in itself is bad enough. There are no rest periods during the fourteen-sixteen hour workday and to make matters worse, the girls are not permitted to sit down while working.

Last year, about this time, some attempts were made by our Party and the Trade Union Unity League to help these workers organize into the Agricultural Workers Industrial League, to fight against these rotten conditions and against the Mexican Mutual Aid Association, the fake labor organization in the Valley. Because the workers were responding to this call

A STORY of MAY DAY

"It was 25,0000 on Sunday, an' it'll be bigger still today."

Young Lucy Parsons stood at the door as her husband started out for the strike meeting. It was May First, 1886, and every worker in Chicago was wondering how many would come out that day in the great strike for the eight-hour day. A monster demonstration of 25,000 on the Sunday before had promised well for the May First strike.

"McCormick and his police — they're in an ugly mood, but they can's stop us," Albert Parsons answered as he swung off down the street.

Lucy was coming later to join him at another meeting, for she was no sheltered housewife, but a fighter like her husband. She was an organizer of the unemployed, who were called "tramps" in those bitter years of cold and of hunger, when the soup kitchens never had enough for the long lines of jobless workers. And Lucy Parsons wrote articles "dedicated to tramps" for the workers' paper, "The Alarm."

More than forty thousand workers came out on strike that day — needle trades workers, lumber workers, metal workers, and men from the railroad shops of the big Pullman company. Workers from the McCormick Harvester Works were out almost to a man. By May 3 it was a mass strike of over 80,000 men, women and youth.

Cops Shoot to Kill

But Cyrus McCormick was in an ugly mood, as Albert Parsons had said. McCormick was getting rich as quickly as possible and allowed nothing to interfere with his profits. When strikers gathered for a meeting near his plant, a riot call was turned in and the police charged down upon the unarmed workers, shooting into their midst and clubbing right and left. Four workers were killed and many wounded.

Lucy and Albert Parsons escaped unhurt that day, but they and their comrades in the Central Labor Union were burning with indignation over the action of the boss class. Quickly they organized a protest meeting for the next evening, May 4, at 7:30 p. m. on Haymarket Square.

Parsons was a speaker at that protest meeting when police again charged the strikers. A bomb was thrown into the crowd and a police sergeant was killed. Police quickly opened fire and several were shot down, policemen and workers.

"We shall all be arrested," Albert Parsons told his wife that night.

Fought for Freedom

But he was not among the seven jailed the next day; he had his chance to escape. However, since comrades and fellow workers, no more guilty than he of any bomb throwing, were held for the murder of the sergeant, Albert Parsons came forward during the trial and gave himself up for arrest.

Lucy Parsons fought for their freedom during long, bitter months of struggle. She wrote leaflets, helped to organize demonstrations and kept on with her work for the Central Labor Union. But the workers' movement was not yet strong enough to force their freedom and on November 11, 1887, her husband, Albert Parsons, and three other leaders of the left wing movement were put to death by hanging.

Haymarket was the beginning of May Day in the United States. By 1890, May First was established as the international working class holiday to be celebrated every year in every country in the world.

And Lucy Parsons? She has remained loyal to the working class through all the long years that followed Albert's death. She has never sought personal gain or middle-class comforts. She has lived and fought as a worker, speaking for the International Labor Defense, for all working class prisoners. And, each May Day, since that day in Chicago forty-five years ago, she has demonstrated in solidarity with the international working class movement.

Youth in Industry

Youth in Industry, an international pamphlet, by Grace Hutchins, ten cents.

Why, out of the forty-five million children in the United States, are six million improperly nourished and one million sufferers from weak and damaged hearts?

Why are nearly a million and a half children between seven and fourteen not in school at all; and of every one thousand who enter first grade, why do only twenty-five per cent graduate from high school?

These questions and others are answered in Grace Hutchins' pamphlet, "Youth in Industry," just published by the International Pamphlets, 799 Broadway, N. Y. City. This is No. 13 in the 10 cent series.

Over a million child workers, says Grace Hutchins, are reported in the government census. But, she adds, "the census not only fails to include seasonal workers in agriculture; it fails altogether to report on working children under ten years of age.

IMPERIAL VALLEY

a Hot and Scorching Sun

for organization, all the forcse of reaction, the American Legion, the MMAA, the Sheriff and the entire government apparatus there were mobilized to outlaw the Party and the TUUL and clamp as many of our comrades as they could into jail. It is for this that our eight comrades are now in San Quentin and Folsom jails serving 3-42 year sentences. It was a direct attack on our Party and the TUUL and an efort to smash the fighting spirit of the workers. But that cannot be done. Even now, in Sacramento Valley, Imperial Valley and the other agricultural fields of California, the workers are expressing their discontent and willingness to organize. Many hundreds are now on strike against low wages and long hours and for the right to organize in the Agricultural Workers Industrial League, part of the TUUL. And the Party and the TUUL are in the field carrying on organization work despite the terror, despite long prison terms and deportations. And while we are doing this work, we must raise a mighty roar of protest against the imprisonment of our comrades in San Quentin and Folsom and organize against the attack on our Party.

Thousands of Workers' Children Are Starving; Can No Longer Be Hidden

(Continued from page 1)

— to more hunger and priyation, and to earlier death, when they recently cut the wages of the beet workers' families by twenty-five per cent.

The workers, including the children, now get eighteen dollars an acre, whereas last year they were receiving twenty-three dollars.

This means that the children will have less to eat, less clothing to wear, and in general, make them more susceptible to sickness and to ailments.

Twenty-eight per cent of the children died before they reached eighteen.

MALNUTRITION IN MINING TOWNS

CENTRALIA, Pa. — The effect of unemployment without relief upon school children is seen in this mining town.

Fifty-six per cent of the children in public schools and seventy per cent of the children in the St. Ignatius school are at least ten pounds underweight.

The survey was made by a field organizer of the Red Cross. This compares with only ten cases of underweight two years ago at these schools.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The misleroms mockery of the government at the plight of the children can be seen when the actual figures compiled by the government itself, are taken at their fact value. Of the 45,000,000 children in the United States, Six million are improperly nourished. This number has risen tremendously during the crisis, and is steadily mounting. One million have weak or damaged hearts, and 582,000 are tubercular.

Working class mothers and the working women must save their children from starvation. There is need of greater struggle for immediate cash relief from the government by the workers organized in the Unemployed Councils. Women's Conference must take up the fight for Unemployment Insurance. Children in the schools must be organized to fight for free lunches and for support of their parents' fight for cash relief from the city. The more serious cases should be investigated and relief forced from charity agencies and big companies.

CHICAGO, Ill. — The terrible misery of starved school children is reaching such proportions that the bosses and school authorities can no longer hide it, as they have done in the past.

The Daily News, a capitalist paper, is forced to admit a bit of the real situation:

"Children who come from the jobless and breadless homes, without money, whose pinched and pallid faces bring heart aches to the teachers whose listless irritation and nervous irritability make the teaching difficult and disturb their better fed school mates."

The little that was given for the free lunches in the schools was soon used up. And now when the Governor Emmerson Commission refused to give any further of their measly "relief," even that was cut off.

Youth

Discriminate Against Negro Girls

BOSTON, Mass. —Two outstanding cases of Negro discrimination in the scholes took place last week. The Negro girls in the Boston girls' High School were recently sold tickets to the senior class prom. Later they were notified to return the tickets because they would not be allowed to attend the dance. The Negro girls so far have refused to comply with this rank chauvinist order. They plan to demand entrance to the prom and if refused admission to stage a demonstration outside the hall.

In the same city, 80 Negro girls of the graduating class of Roxbury Memorial High School were called into the office of a school official and told to stay out of white colleges in the North. They were told not to enter Boston Teachers' College but to go to a southern school such as Fiske University. They were also advised to study nursing or some other manual trade. On top of it all, the girls were insulted by being told that they were mentally not on a par with white students. This is a contemptible lie as the record of marks shows.

Militarizing The Working Youth

NEW YORK.—Taking advantage of the unemployment situation, the War Department is broadening the scope of its activity. It has allotted $300,750 to the Second Corps Area for Citizens Military Traning Camp purposes. This area includes New York, New Jersey, Deleware and Porto Rico.

The only other area to receive a larger appropriation was the one with headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. The War Department gave this unusual amount because Nebraska is an agricultural district. The drought and farm depression has left thousands of young farmers without jobs. The lure fo free board for two weeks is counted on by the War Department to attract a record number of workers who will be trained for the next war.

In New York, 8,000 have already enlisted for the Citizens Military Training Camp. The number exceeds all previous records and is a good indication of how deeply the youth is affected by unemployment.

YOUR GAS BILL

The gas bill will arrive any day now. Have you got money to pay it? No? Then prepare to have the gas shut off. Yes, you have. How did you get it? By saving on something else which you need very badly, isn't that true? Of course it is. How can any working class family get the money for its gas bill except by saving on the milk bill, or by putting off buying that pair of shoes for the little boy.

But there is a little surprise accompanying the gas bill which is coming to the poor working class families of New York this month. The gas company is extremely interested in the health of the children of the workers. At least its gas bill gives that impression.

You see, the First of May is supposed to be "Child Health Day." Of course the Gas Company must do its bit to help along. But don't let me fool you. The Gas Company is not going to say:

"On this Child Health Day we realize that the children should get more milk. So instead of spending your money on gas bills, just buy more milk for Johnny, and forget about the bill!"

No, working class mother—no such sweet dreams for you. The Gas Company will do nothing for you which will deprive it of any hard cash. It will give you the cheapest thing in the world—advice.

This is what the Gas Company is going to do for you on this May Day. On your bill will be a little notice which urges every mother as part of the "Child Health" Day campaign, to have her children examined by physicians between the period of babyhood and the time for entering school! Isn't that nice of the Gas Company? Of course it doesn't offer to wait for its payments several months so that you can pay the doctor bill instead!

And then there is another awfully nice thing the big hearted Gas Company has done for you, and you certainly should be grateful. They have prepared some nice lists of what the children should eat to be real healthy. This is what they say:

"Children require certain foods to aid in growth, health, and body maintenance, and here is a daily menu which will meet these requirements:

BREAKFAST
Baked Apple
Oatmeal Cream
Jam Toast Milk

LUNCHEON
Spinach Souffle
Whole Wheat Bread Butter
Baked Custard with Maple Syrup
Hot Cocoa

DINNER
Beef Loaf Tomato Sauce
Baked Potato Buttered Carrots
Whole Wheat Bread
Butter and Milk
Royal Jelly

And think of it—they have a different menu for every day!

So, working class mother, before you go off to the factory at seven in the morning, don't run in to the neighbors and ask her to heat up those boiled potatoes for Johnny at noon, but just give your maid instructions on how to prepare all these nice things which Johnny will enjoy so much! You know, President Hoover wants you to do all these things—or of course there must be something wrong with you if you don't do things just this way. He even made a speech about about it last November and told a lot of ladies and gentlemen, who are also interested in the health of your children, that there are six million improperly nourished children in the United States. But, he goes on to say: "The ill nourished child is in our country not the product of poverty; it is largely the product of ill-instructed children and ignorant parents."

You see, working class mother, it is all your own fault. Why do you insist on giving Johnny only that thin soup every day, when he should be having beef loaf with tomato sauce? Don't you know any better than that?

But kidding aside. Let's get serious about this May Day Celebration. Let's forget about all those nice but impossible things for the moment, and see what we can really do on May Day.

The First of May has belonged to the workers as long as anyone can remember. On this day the workers go out on the streets in demonstrations. They say plainly what they need and what they want. And they also say plainly that they are going to get these things some day. They say that as soon as they are strong enough, they will simply take these things—they will get out of the slums and live in decent houses. They will give their children proper food. They will take the factories and pay themselves enough wages to get what they need to live in a healthy manner.

But first they must become strong enough, and that is where you come in. Every worker, man or woman, must join this movement. We will never be strong enough until you join and get all your shop mates to join. So get started this year—join our May First Demonstrations! Year by year you will get stronger, and before you know it, we'll be able to give our children baked custard and maple syrup!

Need of Social Insurance for Women Workers

(Continued from page 2)

drawn in 1929; few states have adequate hospital facilities for working women. There is no federal child labor law to prevent child labor; no public nurseries and nursery schools to care for the children of working mothers. In fact nothing is being done for the working class by the capitalist government in a country where millions are being piled up by the bosses on the sweat and toil of the workers. While they make the gestare of concern over the health of the children they are gradually taking away the meagre charity relief from starving families. We workers have forced them to give during the present crisis. In Illinois, the governor's unemployment commission composed of well-fed bankers set aside $4,000 a month for lunches for the thousands of school children of the unemployed. Only a few children received the lunches from this inadequate fund. Now the commission announces that even this small amount will be cut down so that by June 1st the children will get nothing. In Detroit the Department of Public Welfare allows 75c a week for food for each child of an unemployed family and admits that the families get far below the minimum needs as unemployed relief but the city administration plans to cut off 46,000 families from relief by May 1st. Do they care for the starving children?

WOMEN MUST ORGANIZE

The working women of the U.S. have the important task ahead of organizing their forces and fighting together with the men for social insurance against unemployment and for the protection of health and life of the working class. On May Day the struggle for social insurance must be given concrete expression. The Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League have drawn up a bill for social insurance which demands a weekly payment by the government from the fat incomes of the bosses and the government war funds also to be administered by the workers in case of unemployment, accident, sickness and old age, for the protection of women and children before, during and after childborth, and for the care of children left without a breadwinner. Working women must rally to the fight for social insurance and wipe out the vicious system of private charity which the bosses prefer, to keep the workers in starvation.

S. U. PROTECTS CHILDREN

Only under workers' rule as in the Soviet Union will a complete and adequate system of social insurance be provided for the workers. In the Soviet Union all the workers' needs are considered and provided for. Full pay for women workers two months before and after childbirth; factory nurseries under expert care where a mother is sure her children are properly cared for during working hours; clinics for health protection; vacations with pay, and rest homes for all the workers; and above all, security from starvation by unemployment insurance, and insurance against old age, sickness and accidents, paid by the industry.

WITH UNEMPLOYED WOMEN

Women Fight Starvation!

By Ryan Walker

Militant Jobless Woman In Los Angeles Jail Sees Conditions of the "Vags"

Young Mothers Jailed For Daring Take Food To Feed Their Children

(By A Worker Correspondent)

Los Angeles, Cal.

Several months ago I served 90 days in the L. A. County jail for "assault and battery" on an officer. The truth of it was I dared to show my solidarity with the unemployed workers at an unemployment demonstration on September 1st.

During the time I was in jail I came in contact with many girls—the majority of them between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one who were in for "Vag" or prostitution. The "aristocrats" of the jail were the forgers—who were made into "trustees"—meaning that they had a better place to sleep—sheets on the bed—better food—more privileges and were never locked up in cells—and were given the easier jobs such as taking messages, running errands in the jail, etc., these girls were usually also used as stool pigeons.

We were locked into what is known as tanks which held about 14 cells and we had the privilege of walking up and down these tanks (about 30 feet x 5 feet) from 6 in the morning until 9 at night, at which time we were locked into our cells.

Since I was a political prisoner I was considered the worst criminal there besides a murderess—and during visiting hours when our "interested" social ladies ogled us thru the bars as monkeys in a zoo. I was always pointed out together with the murderess.

Forced Into Prostitution.

As I became acquainted with some of these "vags" I found that most of them had been forced to sell their bodies in order to live.

One middle aged woman with 4 children to support—got 30 days for overdrawing 87c on a check she used to pay a grocery bill with.

There were two different cases of young mothers, who were still nursing babies, arrested for stealing some clothes and brought to jail with their six and nine-months old babies.

One day I was called in to see the head jailer and the head matron. I was asked if I was a "co-moonist"; they had heard that I had been trying to propagandize the other girls in the jail—I would be denied all privileges such as letters, visitors, reading, etc., if I didn't stop. I replied: "When a girl asks me what I am in jail for, I am not going to tell her I stole a horse—I shall tell her what I am here for and who I am!"

Put in Solitary

The result was that I found myself in solitary confinement the next morning where I was kept for 23 days and would have been kept for 40 more (the termination of my sentence) as the jailor said, had it not been for the mass pressure conducted through the International Labor Defense.

Women workers! Our place is in the ranks of the working class next to our fellow men workers. Join us—it is the job of all workers—women and men—black and white—to overthrow this corrupt

7,500 Oakland, Cal. Women Are Jobless And Suffer Much

Same Tale of Bitter Misery Told in All Cities in Land

(By a Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, Cal. —The City Women's Employment Bureau is always crowded. Women looking for jobs are talking in awed voices, some crying continuously.

The head of the Women's Employment Bureau, H. Sandford, comes out with a lying statement that there is more employment in this year. This is done to cover up the real situation.

"The report revealed that during the last three months the bureau placed 217 women in jobs, and registered 762 new applicants seeking positions.

"The number of new applicants during the same period of 1930 totaled 1,233 women, showing that this year there were fewer seeking jobs through the bureau," says Helen Sanford of the bureau.

35,000 Jobless

In Oakland there are 35,000 unemployed and about 7,500 of these are women. The head of the bureau boasts of placing 217 in jobs in three months. That less are registered this year accounts that most of the women have registered long ago and have been registering right along, without any success of getting a job through that source.

Here are some of the pleas taken from the same issue of the yellow press where the bureau statement was made, of more work in circulation.

Mothers need aid in quest for work to feed families.

"Widowed with a child of seven to support, destitute through force of circumstances, could not find any job. Just any kind of a job where she could find room and board for herself and Dorothy; a little money, of course with shelter, enough to buy clothes and send Dorothy to school. She can do any kind of housework and is willing to do anything," is one pitiful plea.

Worker's Wife Active In Van Dyke, Mich. Unemployed Council

Dear Comrades:

I am the mother of three children; came to Van Dyke, Mich. three years ago; was very lonesome and not acquainted until I joined the Unemployed Council. Now I am very happy and have many friends. My husband and I never miss a meeting and we certainly do enjoy them. Now we have the working women's council in our community of which I am financial secretary. I certainly do love my work, and when I think of what I am working for, I feel very much pleased. I am writing this for the Working Woman, if any of you are lonesome get busy and join our councils and fight along with your husbands as I do, and you will feel like a different person when you see what good you are doing for the working class. I am writing this just after coming home from a big demonstration in Detroit.

Workingclass Woman

CHINESE WOMAN FEARS DEPORTATION — ENDS LIFE

Minnie Moy, a young Chinese mother of three children, hanged herself in Boston because the U. S. department of labor was trying to deport her to China. Her husband was an American citizen but the girl had come into the U. S. as a student. In its merciless drive against foreign born workers the government would have separated this woman from her husband and children.

Workers deported now average one hundred and fifty a month, and will total twenty thousand for the year by July first, a great increase over last year's figure, which totaled 16,000.

THE MAIL BOX

The Working Woman invites discussion and questions on its readers on organization problems in building the Communist Party, the revolutionary unions, unemployed councils, etc. Help us make this a regular feature by sending in questions and short letters.

QUESTION:

Dear Editor: I am working in an open knitgoods shop. Conditions are miserable. We are working on piece work and the prices are cut on every new garment. Since I am in the shop, I succeeded in getting a number of the girls to join the union so that we can organize and fight for better conditions. But some of the girls refuse to join. Though they are very nice girls generally, they cannot see anything good in the union. This prevents us from doing anything to improve the conditions of the shop. Can you advise me what I can do.

ANSWER:

You have done very good work by bringing some of the girls into the union. But you need not wait until all have joined before you take up a fight for better conditions. If some of the girls are not ready to join the union, you can get them to support you in a fight for better prices in this particular shop. Why not get together with the girls some lunch hour and decide to ask for an increase in the prices? Send a committee to the boss and if he does not give you the increase, refuse to make the work. You say the girls are a good bunch. Then they will surely stick and get the increase. This will be the best and most convincing argument as to why they should organize, and it will be much easier for you to get them to join the union.

QUESTION:

Dear Comrade: I am a member of a women's council in Newark. Many of the members of our council have been very badly affected by the present unemployment. Our husbands are out of work or working part time. While the income of every family has been cut down, the prices of food in Newark, especially of bread and milk, remain practically the same. Our council at its meeting discussed how we can begin fighting against the high cost of living, and we would like your advise on this matter.

ANSWER:

We would advise that you proceed in the following manner. Call together a meeting of your council and pick out a certain neighborhood of about two or three blocks, draw up a short leaflet asking the women of the neighborhood to line up with you in the fight for a reduction of the prices. Get the members of your council to visit every house in this neighborhood, speak to the women and get them ready to fight with you for a reduction in the prices. Arrange open air meetings on that block, calling on the workers to join in this fight. Get the other working class organizations in the neighborhood to cooperate with you. When you have organized a sufficient number of workers, call a mass meeting, elect a strike committee and declare a bread or milk strike. Organize mass picketing at the stores. In the course of this struggle many other questions will surely come up which you will have to deal with as you go along. Proceedings in this manner, you will be able to win your demands. This is how the women in Detroit and Chicago won their bread strike. After you have won your demands, spread out the struggle to other neighborhoods. Carry on your activities in conjunction with the Unemployed Council in your neighborhood.

Women to Fight Legal Lynching Against 9 Young Negro Youths

(Continued from page 1)

car until taken off at Painted Rock. Their car was near the end of the forty-nine car freight. They noticed several others on the train — including six or seven white boys on one of the first cars, but saw no fight and no attack.

SAW FIGHT BETWEEN COLORED AND WHITE MEN

Olin Montgomery of Monroe, Ga., who had been staying with a cousin in Chattanooga, caught this train to go to a free clinic in Memphis.

Ozzie Powell was also riding by himself and knew nothing until he was hauled off the train by white men.

The four boys from Chattannooga, Roy Wright, and his brother, Andy, Haywood Patterson, and Eugene Williams, had been friends for years, were all unemployed, and decided to seek jobs on the river boats at Memphis. They got on an oil car together near the end of the train. As the train was leaving Stevenson, Alabama, moving slowly, they saw twelve or fourteen colored men and six or seven white men fighting on a car near the front of the train. The white men were forced off the train.

GIRLS AT FIRST DENIED THE BOYS ATTACKED THEM

The nine boys, the only Negroes left on the train at that time, were brought together and shown to the two girls, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, who at the time declared that none of these nine boys had done anything to them. Only under pressure of the lynch mob in Scottsboro did the girls finally agree to accuse them of rape, being prodded especially by the state solicitor, who kept saying, "Go ahead and say that they did it; that boy attacked you, didn't he?" etc.

The same mill owners and plantation owners who work working women long hours at night work, who pay starvaation wages to the working women, who force many working girls into prostitution, have again shown their bloody hand of lynch terror.

WOMEN! JOIN IN FIGHT!

Women workers must join the country-wide workers' protest movement against the lynch law verdict, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense.

Meetings of working class women's organizations should be held and resolutions of protest against this new wave of terror, dramatized in this trial. Negro women especially should be drawn into the fight to save the lives of these nine young Negro youths. The "chivalry" of the Southern ruling class must be exposed and shown for what it is, a ruthless destroyer of white and Negro working women, grinding profits from the long hours and miserably low wages of women workers, starving tens of thousands of little children, both white and Negro, visiting degradation and shame upon more thousands of young white and Negro girls.

May Day Greetings from U. S. Working Women

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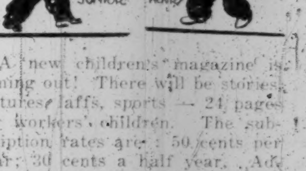
A CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE "PIONEER"



A new children's magazine is coming out! There will be stories, pictures, laffs, sports — 24 pages for workers' children. The subscription rates are: 50 cents per year; 30 cents a half year. Address: Pioneer, Box 28, Station D, New York City.

Name

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